MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

JEFFERSON ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH,

ASHE COUNTY, N. C.,

COMMENCING ON THURSDAY BEFORE THE 1st SABBATH IN SEPT., 1854.

ABINGDON, VA.:
PRINTED AT THE "VIRGINIAN" OFFICE.
1854.

MINUTES.

MOUNT PLEASANT, August 31st, 1854.

The Jefferson Association met in its Sixth Annual Session, according to appointment, when the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder S. Ross; after which the Delegates from the Churches convened, and the Association was called to order by the Chairman.

1. The Delegates from the Churches presented letters, which were read, and the names enrolled as follows:

Baptist Union.—S. Ross, Pilgrim Parks, J. N. Ross and L. Fisher.

Baptist Chapel.—James Blevins, Jas. Testerman, W. Thompson and Jackson Blevins.

White Top.—E. Edmonson, Jackson Lewis and Henry Farmer.

Mount Pleasant.—Daniel Blevins, Jas. S. Loyd, S. Blackburn and Wm. Hurley.

Liberty Chapel.—J. Garvy, J. Walters, Geo. W. Pope and Elijah Pope.

Sugar Grove.—John Cress.

Union.—Wm. W. Brown, Nathan Eastridge, F. Wright and B. S. Brown.

Young's Chapel.—Wm. Young, W. G. Baldwin, J. H. Perkins and J. B. Young.

Friendship.—Thomas Handy and Walden Carter.

2d. Proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the choice of S. Ross, *Chairman*, and J. H. Perkins *Secretary & Treasurer*, Elders N. C. & W. M. Baldwin, being appointed tellers.

3d. Called for new Churches. Received one new Church named Apple Grove, situated in Ashe County, N. C., and represented by the following brethren: Elder A. Blevins, D. Tucker, A. Pennington and E. Blevins, Sr.

4th. Called for Correspondence. Received as follows: From Lebanon, Elders James Hartsock, N. C. Baldwin and Robert Lewis, with a bunch of Minutes showing their appointment as Delegates to this body. From Holston, V. Bowers and W. B. Gambill, who stated that their Corresponding letter was placed in the hands of Elder J. A. Davis, a Corresponding Delegate who had not yet arrived.

5th. Invited transient ministers. Elder W. M. Baldwin was received.

6th. Appointed A. Blevins, W. G. Baldwin and Wm. Young,

together with the Chairman, Secretary, and Corresponding Delegates, a Committee of Arrangements.

7th. Appointed a Financial Committee, consisting of James Blevins, Daniel Blevins and W. G. Baldwin.

8th. The Delegates from the Mount Pleasant Church to arrange religious services during the present session.

9th. Appointed N. C. Baldwin, W. M. Baldwin, Wm. Young, W. G. Baldwin and J. H. Perkins, a Committee on Resolutions.

10th. On motion, the Committee on Religious Services were requested to retire, and arrange the preaching for to-night and to-morrow.

11th. The following three brethren were appointed a Committee on Education: Robert Lewis, James Hartsock and N. C. Baldwin.

12th. On motion of N. C. Baldwin, Elders R. Lewis, W. M. Baldwin, and bro. W. G. Baldwin were appointed a Commitee on Destitution.

13th. The Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Bro. Lewis preach to-night, and Bro. Bowers conclude. On to-morrow W. M. Baldwin and N. C. Baldwin.

14th. By motion, adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by W. M. Baldwin.

Friday Morning, Sept. 1st.

The Delegates met, and after singing, and prayer by Elder Bowers, proceeded to business as follows:

1st. The names of the Delegates were called.

2d. Another invitation was given to correspondents: whereupon H. B. Brown, from the Yadkin Association, was received, with a package of Minutes. Elder J. A. Davis, from the Holston Association, presented a letter showing the appointment of himself, and also the appointment of Bros. Bowers and Gambill, who had already been received. Brother Davis was cordially received.

3d. The Committee on Religious Exercises reported, and the report was not received.

4th. The Minutes of yesterday were read and corrected.

5th. The Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Bro. Hartsock preach to-day at 11 o'clock; Bro. W. M. Baldwin follow, and Bro. Bowers conclude. The report was received.

6th. On motion, agreed to do the business of the Association and preach alternately.

7th. The Committee of Arrangements reported. Their report was received, and the Committee discharged.

8th. Brother N. C. Baldwin asked leave to take up a collection, the object of which was to collect funds to assist in paying

for the building of the Baptist Church in the town of Abingdon, Va.; but it appearing that most of those who were disposed to contribute were unprepared, from the fact of their having had no previous notice, the matter was deferred until some future period during the meeting.

9th. Read the Rules of Decorum.

10th. Called on Correspondents to Sister Associations to report. Bros. S. Ross and James Blevins reported that they attended the Brier Creek, and were kindly received. S. Ross, A. Blevins and William Brown said they attended the Holston, were received in love, and found our brethren in that section liberal and beautifully onward in the dissemination of knowledge and the propagation of truth, before which error and falsehood will inevitably, ere long, shrink back to rise no more.—Brethren W. G. Baldwin and J. B. Young said they attended the Lebanon, and speak highly of the manifestation of energy and benevolence among our people in that region.

On motion of N. C. Baldwin, old brethren who had large families, &c., who were appointed Correspondents and failed to go, were excused, but young men were rebuked.

11th. On motion appointed Correspondents to Sister Associations, as follows:

To the Lebanon, commencing the 14th of *September*, 1854, S. Ross, W. Young and A. Blevins. To the Brier Creek, to be held with the Bethel Church, 13 miles South of Wilkesborough, N. C., commencing Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in *Sept.*, 1854, James Blevins, Jas. S. Loyd and Jackson Blevins. To the Yadkin, James Blevins, James S. Loyd and Jackson Blevins—to be held with the Church at Swaim's Meeting-house, Yadkin County, N. C., commencing Friday before the 1st Sabbath in *Oct.*, 1854. To the Holston, at Zion Church, commencing the 2d Friday in *August*, 1855, W. G. Baldwin, J. B. Young, W. W. Brown, J. H. Perkins and James Blevins.

12th. Appointed William Young, J. Walters and V. Bowers to say where our next Association shall be held.

13th. On motion, adjourned till half past 3 o'clock this evening. Prayer by Elder Davis.

Friday Evening.

The Delegates met according to adjournment.

1st. On motion, the Corresponding Delegates to Sister Associations were instructed to write Corresponding Letters, and sign the names of the Chairman & Secretary of this Association.

2d. On motion, adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Lewis.

Saturday Morning, Sept. 2d.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Davis.

1st. Called the names of the Delegates.

2d. Invited Correspondents. Brethren S. D. Swaim and W. F. Adams, from the Brier Creek Association, came forward with a letter and minutes, showing their appointment to this Association, and, upon motion, were received.

3d. The Committee to appoint a place for the next Association reported: their report was received, and, on motion, the Committee discharged.

The next Annual Session of the Jefferson Association will be held at Young's Chapel, Wilson Creek, Grayson co., Va., commencing on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1855.—Elder J. A. Davis is appointed to preach the Annual Sermon—Elder S. Ross his alternate.

4th. The Committee on Education reported the following, which was unanimously adopted, and the Committee discharged:

Report of the Committee on Education.

The Committeee to whom was referred the subject of Education beg leave to submit the following as their report:

1st. We are convinced that the educational facilities of this Association are exceedingly limited, so much so, that there is no school within our territory where young men can prepare themselves for the responsible positions which they occupy in the various relations of life. Much less can they qualify themselves, within the precincts of the schools which now exist, for the high and holy calling of the Gospel Ministry.

2d. We are convinced that there is a spirit of education beginning to burn within the hearts of some of the brethren within our limits, and that they need only encouragement and a proper system to work by, to enable them to engage in good earnest in the delightful work of educating their children, with a view to their usefulness in the affairs of Government and society universally. Therefore,

Resolved, 1st, That we recommend to the Churches to make a speedy and united effort to get up a school of high character at some suitable point within our Associational limits.

Resolved, 2d, That in order that this thing be consummated, a committee of nine be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take active and efficient steps to secure a suitable location for the erection of a suitable building; the appointment of a suitable agent to collect funds for the completion of the same, and to secure the services of a teacher, qualified to teach the English Sciences thoroughly, and report their proceedings and success to the next Association.

Resolved, 3d. That the Committee be instructed, in making the selection for a location of said school, to have *particular* reference to the most wealthy and densely populated community.

N. C. BALDWIN, *Chairman.*

5th. The following nine were appointed a committee to secure a suitable site for a school in the bounds of this Association, to appoint a suitable agent to collect funds for the erection of a building, and to procure the services of a teacher, competent to teach the English Sciences thoroughly, and report their proceedings and success to the next Association: William Young, Wiley G. Baldwin, Hon. William C. Parks, James Blevins, David Smith, Esq., Daniel Blevins, Andrew Dickson, Jonathan B. Young, Jessee Reeves, *Committee.*

6th. The Committee on Destitution reported: their report was adopted, and, on motion, the Committee discharged.

Report of the Committee on Destitution.

Whereas, The locality of this Association, partly in N. Carolina and partly in Virginia, has hitherto operated as an insuperable barrier to our progress in the Missionary work; and, whereas, there are large fields within our bounds, not only destitute of Baptist preaching, but destitute of means to sustain a faithful and efficient Baptist ministry; and, whereas, this Association has hitherto made various unsuccessful efforts to have such destitution supplied:

Resolved, therefore, That we take immediate measures to become connected with the General Association of Virginia, and that W. G. Baldwin, John H. Perkins, and James Blevins be a committee to correspond with that body in relation to the appointment of a suitable Missionary in the two counties of Smyth and Grayson, as soon as such an one can be obtained.

Resolved, further, That we appoint Brother J. S. Loyd to represent us in the next Annual Meeting of the Western Virginia Association; and that the funds necessary to constitute an Annual Membership of that body be placed in the Treasurer's hands, together with his expenses to and from said meeting.

W. M. BALDWIN, *Chairman.*

7th. The Committee on Religious Exercises reported and were discharged.

8th. The Financial Committee reported that they had received from the Churches $18 87½, which was placed in the hands of the Treasurer, and the committee discharged.

9th. The Secretary reported that the Association was in arrears with him for former services $2 48¼.

10th. By motion, the Association suspended business till Monday, 9 o'clock. Benediction by the Chairman.

According to the request of the Association last year, Bro. Davis preached a missionary sermon on Saturday. On Sabbath the stage was first occupied by Brother Davis; 2d, by Brother N. C. Baldwin, and 3d, by Brother W. M. Baldwin. These three discourses were quite appropriately delivered to a large and well-ordered congregation; and we confidently hope, from every appearance, have made a good and lasting impression upon the minds of many who were present.

Monday Morning, 9 o'clock, Sept. 4th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder N. C. Baldwin.

1st. Called the Delegates' names.

2d. Invited transient ministers. Brother Richard Gentry was present, but refused to accept the invitation.

3d. The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted, and the committee discharged:

Resolutions.

Whereas, There has, for several years past, been a disunion among the Baptists in this country; and, whereas, we consider such disunion to be injurious to the great cause of truth, and ought not to exist; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly solicit all Baptists, both Missionaries and Anti-Missionaries, to lay down their prejudices against each other, allowing each the privilege to co-operate or refuse to co-operate in any good, benevolent enterprise, and thereby unite their efforts in vindicating and disseminating the truths of the Gospel, and combatting error and falsehood.

2d. *Whereas*, This Association has no Literary Institution of her own;

Resolved, That we advise the Baptists of this Association to patronize and encourage the Fall Branch Seminary, located at Fall Branch, Washington county, Tenn., and the Holston Baptist Female Institute, located at Jonesborough, until otherwise provided for.

3d. *Whereas*, In this age of unequalled light and progress, any family living destitute of a Religious Newspaper is doing great injustice to itself, by retarding the progress of its own intellectual and moral advancement, and thereby disqualifying itself for that position in the Kingdom of God which duty and the cause of Christ demand;

Resolved, That we recommend all the Baptist families in this Association, who are destitute of a Religious Newspaper, to subscribe for one as soon as practicable.

Resolved, further, That we recommend to the Churches and families of this Association *The Tennessee Baptist*, published at Nashville, Tenn., and *The Carolina Baptist*, published at Hendersonville, N. C., worthy the patronage of all Baptists.

Resolved, further, That *The Home & Foreign Journal* is an important auxiliary to the progress and spirit of missionary and temperance reform in the midst of which it is our privilege to live, and therefore should be read by every Baptist.

4th. *Whereas*, The Baptist Denomination has suffered much persecution in past years, particularly in this mountain section of country, in consequence of her benevolent institutions; and, whereas we consider that so long as the Religion of JESUS is permitted to lie deeply rooted in her institutions she cannot fall, the Rock of Ages is yet her abiding place;

Resolved, therefore, That in view of the stupendous purposes to accomplish which she is to be the honored instrument, untrammelled and unconfined, bearing in her bosom the elements that have already given omens of great promise, that we recommend to the Churches of this Association to contribute more liberally of what God has given them, and what may she not perform?

5th. *Resolved*, That we consider the Baptist Preacher published by H. Keeling, Richmond, Va., worthy of patronage.

6th. *Whereas*, our beloved and highly esteemed brother W. G. Brown, from the Yadkin Association, after arriving in the neighborhood as a correspondent to this body, was immediately taken sick, and thereby deprived of the privilege of engaging with us in our deliberations:

Resolved, therefore, That we sympathize with Brother Brown while thus confined, and deeply regret the loss of his counsel.

7th. *Resolved*, That the sincere thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the people of this vicinity, for the hospitality extended by them during the present session.

5th The Committee appointed last year to ask the Goshen Association for funds to assist in sustaining a Missionary in the bounds of this Association, reported that they had conferred with that body, but failed to get aid, in consequence of the board being engaged in preparing an outfit for Brother Shuck to California.

6th. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the Jefferson Association Bible Society has become extinct, the funds remaining in the hands of the Treasurer go into the hands of the Treasurer of the Association, to be appropriated for the advancement of the cause of *Missions, at home.*

7th. On motion, the Secretary was instructed to superintend

the printing and distribution of 600 copies of the minutes, and be allowed $6 00 for his services.

8th. On motion, adjourned, to meet at Young's Chapel, Thursday before the first Sabbath in September, 1855. Prayer by Elder W. M. Baldwin.

S. ROSS, *Chairman.*

JOHN H. PERKINS, *Secretary*

ORDAINED MINISTERS WITH THEIR P. O. ADDRESS.

ARMSTRONG BLEVINS,	North Fork, N. C.
JOHN D. CARTY,	White Top, Va.
E. EDMONSON,	" " "
S. ROSS,	Big Meadow, Va.

LICENTIATES.

JACKSON BLEVINS,	Big Helton, N. C.
J. S. LOYD,	Jefferson, N. C.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	Dates,	Church meet. Sat.	By Baptism.	By Letter,	By Application.	Restored,	Dismissed,	Excluded,	Deceased,	In Fellowship,	Contributions,
Baptist Chapel,	Ashe, N. C.	1842	1	18	1			7	3		97	$2 00
Liberty Chapel,	" " "	1847	4		1						32	2 00
Mount Pleasant,	" " "	1849		1	3			1			35	2 00
Baptist Union,	Grayson, Va.	1842	1	21			7	1			87	2 10
White Top,	" "	1847	2	21	2	5		17			41	2 00
Young's Chapel,	" "	1845	2	3	1	1		3	16		56	3 35
Friendship,	" "	1852	4				2				13	1 30
Sugar Grove,	Smyth "	1842	3		3			1		1	43	62
Union,	Ashe, N. C.	1853	2	7					1		24	1 50
Apple Grove,	" " "	1854				3					24	2 00
		Total,		71	11	9	9	30	20	1	452	$18.87